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Paradirphia wenzeli Racheli, sp. n. (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae)

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Description of two new taxa of Hemileucinae from southern Peru: *Molippa kohlli* Racheli, sp. n. and *Paradirphia wenczeli* Racheli, sp. n. (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae)

L. Racheli

Abstract

Two new species of Hemileucinae from Peru are described and figured: *Molippa kohlli* Racheli, sp. n. and *Paradirphia wenczeli* Racheli, sp. n.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Saturniidae, Hemileucinae, new species, Peru.

Descripción de dos nuevas taxa de Hemileucinae del sur de Perú: *Molippa kohlli* Racheli, sp. n. y *Paradirphia wenczeli* Racheli, sp. n. (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae)

Resumen

Se describen y figuran dos nuevas especies de Hemileucinae de Perú: *Molippa kohlli* Racheli, sp. n. y *Paradirphia wenczeli* Racheli, sp. n.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Saturniidae, Hemileucinae, nuevas especies, Perú.

Introduction

Since the publication of the revision of the Hemileucinae by LEMAIRE (2002), several new taxa belonging to the subfamily Hemileucinae were described (e. g. NAUMANN, BROSCHE & WENCZEL, 2005a; 2005b).

In this paper, two new species of Hemileucinae from southern Peru are described: one belongs to the genus *Molippa* Walker, 1855 and, the second one to the genus *Paradirphia* Michener, 1949. The descriptions of these new taxa are based on the characters of the external morphology only, and further details on diagnosable characters will be discussed in a forthcoming paper.

Description of new species

***Molippa kohlli* Racheli, sp. n.**

Holotype male (Fig. 1): PERU, Puno, Aquele, 2129 m, April 2005, J. Böttger leg., L. Racheli coll., [print label]. / April 2005, Aquele Puno, Peru 2129 m, leg. J. Böttger, [hand-written label in blue]. / Specimen from coll. Bernhard WENCZEL, received on December 2007, L. Racheli coll. [print label in green]. A red label will be fixed under the holotype. The holotype is in the collection of the author

and it will be deposited in a public Museum when my studies on Neotropical Saturniidae will be finished.

Description: Forewing length, 45 mm. Head brown. Antennae yellowish-orange. Legs brown. Thorax: upperside and underside brown. Abdomen yellowish orange with black rings. The pleurae are white and the spiracles black ringed.

Forewing upperside: Ground colour brownish speckled with brown markings. The basal area near the inner margin is dark brown. Two brown spots are present near the apex and in the middle of the marginal area (between M1-M3). A reddish brown irregular band edged on both sides by two black lines divides the postdiscal area from the submarginal area.

Hindwing upperside entirely black with an evident apical cellular black Y-shaped spot. The margin is black but with the presence of white colour at the intersection of each vein. In the submarginal area, all the veins are covered with orange scales from the costa to the inner margin. The anal margin is black with yellowish orange hairs like those found in the abdomen.

Forewing underside: Ground colour orange brown with a black line which divides the postdiscal area from the submarginal area. A short irregular black line is present at the apex of the cell. Internervular black and orange lines along the outer margin. Each vein from the marginal area into the discal and postdiscal areas are covered with orange scales.

Hindwing underside: Ground colour like that in the forewing underside. An irregular black line separates the postdiscal area from the submarginal area. All the veins are covered with orange scales like those found on the forewing upperside.

Derivatio nominis: This new species is dedicated to my friend Steve Kohl (Kayl, Luxemburg) for his valuable efforts in rearing Saturniid species.

Remarks: In general, this new species seems to be a large *Molippa nibasa* Maassen, 1855 but it is characterized by black hindwing upperside with orange veins in the marginal and submarginal areas.

***Paradirphia wenczeli* Racheli, sp. n.**

Holotype male (Fig. 2): PERU Puno, Limbani 2200 m, March 2005, J. Böttger leg., L. Racheli coll., [print label]. / Limbani 2200 m, Puno Peru, Marz 2005, J. Böttger [hand-written label in blue]. / Specimen from coll. Bernhard WENCZEL, received on December 2007, L. Racheli coll. [print label in green]. A red label will be fixed under the holotype. The holotype is in the collection of the author and it will be deposited in a public Museum when my studies on Neotropical Saturniidae will be finished.

Paratype: 1 male, PERU Cuzco, Carrizales 3200m, 10 April 2004, José Boettger leg., L. Racheli coll., [print label]. / Carrizales 3200m, Cuzco PERU, 10 April 2004, leg. José Boettger, [print label]. / Specimen from coll. Bernhard WENCZEL, received on December 2007, L. Racheli coll., [print label in green]. The paratype is in the collection of the author.

Description: Forewing length, 29 mm. Head and antennae light brown. Legs dark brown, tarsi pink. Thorax: upperside and underside brownish. The upperside area between the thorax and the abdomen is covered with reddish pink hairs. Abdomen: upperside characterized by alternate black and pink rings; underside brown.

Forewing upperside: Ground colour light brown with the postdiscal and submarginal areas lighter. A large white spot is present along the costa. A not so-evident series of white points separates the discal from the postdiscal area, from the costa to the inner margin.

Hindwing upperside: Almost entirely light brown with the postdiscal and margin areas lighter. Two little white points are present in the discal area near the costa.

On the underside, the forewing has the same ground colour like that of the upperside with a large white spot in the discal area near the costa. The marginal and submarginal areas have a light brown colour. The hindwing has the same characteristics of the forewing but with an evident white band which extends from the costa to the end of the discal cell.

Derivatio nominis: This new species is dedicated to Bernhard Wenczel (Kloten, Switzerland) who firstly noticed the differences with allied species.

Remarks: the single paratype available differs from the holotype in having the forewing length of 33.5 mm. Furthermore, it has on the forewing upperside a series of very reduced white spots forming a band which extends from the costa to the inner margin in the discal area.

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Figs. 1-2.—1. *Molippa kohlli* Racheli, sp. n., holotype. 2. *Paradirphia wenzeli* Racheli, sp. n., holotype.